

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: January 28, 2000

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on January 21, 2000

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Francis X. Lyons
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, and other significant developments:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Explanation of Significant Differences (Explosives/Munitions Manufacturing Areas Operable Unit), Sangamo Electric Dump/Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge (USDOI) Superfund Site, Marion, Illinois

On January 11, 2000, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the Department of the Army, in consultation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA), jointly issued an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) to the February 19, 1997, Record of Decision (ROD) for the Explosives/Munitions Manufacturing Areas Operable Unit (EMMA OU) at the Sangamo Electric Dump/Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge (USDOI) Superfund Site in Marion, Illinois. The ESD indicated that no further action was needed at site COC-4.

The ROD had determined that no further action was required at twelve of the fifteen EMMA OU sites, that remedial actions were required at two sites (COC-3 and COP-4), and that remedy selection be deferred for one site (COC-4) so that potential ecological risk could be further evaluated (there were no unacceptable human health risks at COC-4). The follow-up

evaluation concluded that the original assumptions concerning both the exposure point and the toxicity factor for ecological risk had been overly conservative. Consequently, the U.S. EPA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and Illinois EPA agreed that no further action was required at the deferred site (COC-4).

Contact: Nan Gowda (312-353-9236)

Pre-final Inspection, Van Dale Junkyard Superfund Site, Washington County, Ohio

On December 21, 1999, Remedial Project Manager Ron Murawski participated in the pre-final inspection for the Van Dale Junkyard Superfund Site in Washington County, Ohio. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA), potentially responsible parties (PRP), and PRP contractors also participated in the inspection.

The inspection showed that the major construction elements have been completed, including installation of the buttress wall and installation of the lower layers of the waste cap. The final two layers of the waste cap have not yet been installed. Also, certain erosion and sedimentation control, subsurface drainage system, and surface water management system components have not yet been installed.

Due to wet Fall weather and additional, unplanned excavation and consolidation of impacted material, the PRP contractors could not complete construction in 1999. Due to expected wet weather in the Winter and early Spring months in southeast Ohio, construction is now expected to be complete by Summer 2000.

Contact: Ron Murawski (312-886-2940)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Cooperative Agreement Discussions, Leech Lake Tribal Pilot (Unique Risks) and Tribal Support Agency, St. Regis Paper Co. Superfund Site, Cass County, Minnesota

On January 13, 2000, Staff from the Office of Emergency and Remedial Response (David Evans, Felicia Wright, and Terry

Smith) facilitated discussions between U.S. EPA Region 5 and the Leech Lake Band of the Ojibwe. The discussions were related to a proposed cooperative agreement for the Band's support agency involvement at the St. Regis Paper Co. Superfund site in Cass County, Minnesota, and a proposed cooperative agreement for the Band's proposed Enhanced Tribal Role Pilot Project to consider unique risks based on Tribal culture. Major issues to be resolved included inclusion of legal support, procurement requirements for legal/technical consulting services, quantitative levels for analytical work, the relation of the proposed pilot to an existing environmental justice grant, and the potential development of media standards. The meeting concluded with agreements on follow-up actions designed to reach signature of the two cooperative agreements within the next two months.

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